

WORKINGTON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Workington Harbour Management Committee held on Friday, 10 September 2021 at 1.30 pm at Conference Centre, St Michael's Church, Falcon Place, Workington

PRESENT

Mr K Little (Chair)

County Councillors

Mr A Bowness
Mr A Markley
Mrs C Tibble

Allerdale Borough Councillors

Mr M Heaslip
Mr M Johnson
Mr C Sharpe

Officers in Attendance:-

Mr M Barry	-	Place and Enterprise Manager
Mrs L Davis	-	Democratic Services Officer
Mr A Harty	-	Assistant Director - Environment and Enterprise
Sven Richards	-	Port Manager

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr J Coughlan.

20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item 9 – Port Manager's report and Agenda Item 10 – Masterplan Update on the grounds that they contain exempt information as defined under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information.

21 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mr M Johnson declared an interest as a Managing Director of A J Johnson.

22 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2021 be confirmed as an accurate record

23 MEMBERSHIP

Members noted Mr M Heaslip and Mr C Sharpe had been appointed as Allerdale Borough Council's representatives to the Committee replacing Mr J Lister and Mr S Stoddart. The Chair welcomed them to the Committee. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Lister and Mr Stoddart for their contribution to the work of the Committee.

24 RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE WORKINGTON HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members received the recommendations and action plan for Workington Harbour Management Committee from the Port Manager. The Port Manager introduced the report and outlined the progress made on the actions.

Members noted that the development of the future Port of Workington Masterplan had been completed and a business plan development was underway. The Port Manager confirmed that the action relating to the recruitment of up to two co-opted non-voting members to the Committee had now been completed. Members noted that the amended Terms & Conditions for the Committee had been drafted and were with Legal Services to review and approve.

The Port Manager confirmed that the audits of the Port's Marine Safety Management System had been completed and the audit report had been published in January 2021. A refreshed action plan would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

25 ACCOUNTS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Port Manager updated members on the latest Revenue and Expenditure for the quarter ending 30 June 2021. The Committee were advised that, in the first quarter, a slight turnover of budget was expected, despite the challenges presented by Covid and EU Exit. It was recognised by members that the trading position of the Port was volatile and the Port Manager advised that approaches had been made to expand the Port's customer base while maintaining good relations with critical existing customers. The discussion led on to potential future use of the facilities and the development of the land around the Port.

The Port Manager advised on the breakdown and repair of the Port's Tug MV Derwent, the subsequent costs associated with this and the intention to develop a contingency plan for the Port's strategic equipment.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

26 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 15 October 2021 at 10 am at the Port of Workington.

27 PORT MANAGER'S REPORT

The Committee received a report from the Port Manager on the general commercial activities that were on going and anticipated.

Covid 19 Update – Response and Recovery

The Port Manager updated members on the Port's response and recovery to Covid 19.

Port Commercial/Business Activities

A summary of the Port's commercial & business activities from 1st April 2021 to 30th June March 2021 was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

Members noted that the Port had participated in the filming of a programme called Gateways to Growth which had been arranged in conjunction with the British Ports Association. The aim of the programme would be to communicate the value and positive impacts of the country's ports and it was hoped the participation in this would raise the Port's profile with key stakeholders, the local community and businesses. The film was due for release in September followed by a social media campaign and it was anticipated that the campaign would reach 1-2 million people. A short version of the film, segmented for the Port of Workington, would be available to be used in marketing and promotion of the Port and would be circulated to members.

Port Health and Safety Meetings

An appraisal of health and safety at the Port was given to members. The minutes of the Port's Health and Safety Committee was appended to the report. Health and safety and responsibility of this was discussed at length.

Port of Workington Masterplanning and Business Plan/Investment Strategy

Members noted that Port's Masterplan had been completed and would be presented to Cabinet for approval in September. A business plan aligned to the Masterplan was currently in development. It was noted that the new Port Access Bridge scheme had been completed and officially opened on 7 June. Members noted the Port was a key element in the Workington Town Deal.

EU Exit

Members noted the reported position with regards to EU exit.

Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC)

An update on Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) was given. Members noted that the Port's Marine Safety Management System Performance reports had been completed in June 2021 covering the 12 month period from 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021 and were appended to the report at Appendix 3.

Maintenance Dredging

Members noted, as previously reported, a "one off" grab dredging campaign had been planned to remove the heavy material washed down by the river. To conclude the Port Manager gave an update on maintenance dredging and the intention to introduce a dredging framework to allow more flexibility.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

28 MASTERPLAN UPDATE

The Places and Enterprise Manager updated members on the Port's Masterplan. The Masterplan had been completed and would be submitted to Cabinet for approval. The Masterplan would present a long-term plan for the Port and surrounding land. Members noted that a new five year Business Plan was being prepared in parallel to the Masterplan. It was hoped that the Business Plan would be completed by the end of October.

In discussion, the opportunities for further adaptations to the Port's infrastructure as demand grew were highlighted. Diversity, connectivity, promoting sustainability and the effects of Local Government Reform on the Port were discussed at length.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 2.40 pm